

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           Device (1) for controlling and/or monitoring external technical processes, in particular  
a device for use in connection with safety-related controls. The device includes an input  
functionality, an output functionality and a processing functionality that can be connected  
with at least one higher-level unit (5) for transfer of process-influencing and/or process-  
monitoring signals by way of a bus system (4) to and/or from actuators (3) and/or sensors (2)  
10 connected to the device. A guaranteed response time over the bus system (4) is determined  
on one hand by the cycle time of the higher-level unit (5) and on the other by the signal cycle  
time over the bus system (4) itself. In order to provide a shorter response time than this in  
appropriate circumstances, the device (1) uses the processing functionality thereof to execute  
logical links internally. The results are available for process control and/or process  
15 monitoring after a time interval that is shorter than the guaranteed response time of the  
higher-level unit (5) over bus (4).